

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 HEW-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 INT-05 /117 W

----- 103360

R 030630Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3962

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FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT PASS TO CEQ AND EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN'S NITROGEN OXIDES EMISSION CONTROL PROGRAM

1. JAPAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM INDUSTRY TO RELAX MAY 8, 1973, AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE LIMITING DAILY AVERAGE OF HOURLY VALUES TO 0.02 PPM, BUT EA'S AIR QUALITY BUREAU HAS NOT SHOWN ANY INDICATION OF ACCEDING.

2. INDUSTRY CLAIMS JAPANESE STANDARD IS TOO SEVERE COMPARED WITH WHO'S INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA FOR NITROGEN OXIDES (YET TO BE ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY) SETTING MAXIMUM TOLERABLE LIMIT OF HOURLY NITROGEN DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION AT 0.10-0.17 PPM.

3. EA'S POSITION ON MATTER WAS MADE KNOWN TO LOCAL GVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL NOV. 9. DR. MICHIO HASHIMOTO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF AIR QUALITY BUREAU AND STAUNCH DEFENDER OF VICTIMS OF AIR POLLUTION, DECLARED THAT JAPAN'S STANDARD FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT EA WOULD GO AHEAD WITH CURRENT LONG-TERM PROGRAM FOR

NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSION CONTROLS. HASIMOTO EXPLAINED THAT HOURLY VALUE OF 0.10 PPM PROPOSED BY WHO IS SIMILAR TO OR SOMEWHAT MORE STRINGENT THAN JAPAN'S INTERMEDIATE TARGET VALUE OF 0.04 PPM SET FOR DENSELY POPULATED AREAS, SINCE LATTER STANDARD IS BASED ON DAILY AVERAGE OF HOURLY VALUES. IN THIS REGARD, EA OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT JAPANESE STANDARD WAS SET AS A LONG-TERM GOAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ENDEAVOR THAT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED AND MAINTAINED TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN HEALTH. WHO'S STANDARDS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE BASED ON THE IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH OF SHORT-TERM EXPOSURE TO NITROGEN DIOXIDE.

4. A WEEK AFTER EA MADE KNOWN ITS POSITION ON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE, EA RECONFIRMED ITS POLICY OF ENFORCING OVERALL NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSION CONTROL BY REGULATING TOTAL QUANTITY OF NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSION FROM STATIONARY SOURCES IN GIVEN AREA INSTEAD OF QUANTITIES FROM INDIVIDUAL SOURCES. THIS POLICY IS TO TAKE EFFECT IN JFY 1978. TOTAL QUANTITY CONTROL IS NOW IN EFFECT FOR EMISSIONS OF SULFUR OXIDES. THE TOTAL QUANTITY CONTROL FORMULA HAS BEEN CONSIDERED OF DOUBTFUL VALIDITY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING SUFFICIENT DATA ON HOW NITROGEN OXIDES ARE DISPERSED IN AIR. AS CONTROL TARGET UNDER NEW FORMULA, EA IS LIKELY TO ADOPT THE INTERMEDIATE GOAL OF 0.04 PPM INSTEAD OF THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF 0.02 PPM. EA HAS ALSO DECIDED TO CHANGE SIMULATION MODEL FOR DETERMINING QUANTITY OF NITROGEN OXIDES TO BE CURTAILED BY EACH FACTORY FROM ONE BASED ON CONCENTRATIONS OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE TO ONE BASED ON TOTAL NITROGEN OXIDE (NON) CONCENTRATIONS. DECISION IS BASED ON RECOMMENDATION FROM EXPERTS COMMITTEE WHICH POINTED OUT THAT USING NITROGEN DIOXIDE MODEL IN DETERMINING QUOTAS FOR EACH FACTORY IS IMPRACTICAL SINCE MECHANISM OF REACTION WHICH CONVERTS NITROGEN MONOXIDE TO NITROGEN DIOXIDE HAS NOT BEEN FULLY CLARIFIED.

5. COMMENT: SUBJECT OF NEED FOR STRINGENT NOX EMISSION CONTROLS CAME UP REPEATEDLY DURING OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REVIEW IN JAPAN. BOTH JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND SOME OECD EXPERTS QUESTIONED WHETHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NOX WAS SUFFICIENTLY WELL DEFINED TO WARRANT EXPENSE OF CONTROL MEASURES.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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